

Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 1st, 2014

DRAFT

Meeting Location: Academy for Career Exploration, 130 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903
Date and Time of Meeting: May 1st, 2014, 4:30pm
Directors Present: Jane Nugent, Kerry Altman, Alan Neville, Denise DeBarros, Nicolette Ciano, Donna Paine, Kathy Fisher, Paul R. Racicot, Kristin Smilevski,
Others Present: Mario F. Cirillo, Randy Dittmar and Roger Ray, Dittmar, McNeil, & Ferolito, LLC., Joseph Bassi, Wolpert & Associates, Inc.
Directors Absent: Roberto Garcia
Presiding Officer: Jane Nugent

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

Board Co-Chair Jane Nugent called the meeting to order at 4:33PM.

II. Public Comment

No member of the public present.

III. Discussion/Vote Regarding Response to the Academy for Career Exploration Renewal Site Visit/RIDE Draft Report

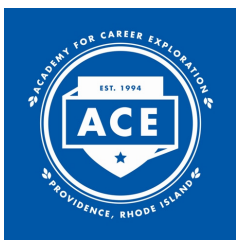
A copy of the draft report was shared with the members of the Board. Dr. Cirillo explained that narrative shows improvement but that is not reflected in the scores. The team is working on a response and documentation to support our key points that address what we understand to be inaccuracies in the report. The response is due this Thursday. We are moving in the right direction and we know that we still have work to do. Ms. Nugent asked that the terms of service agreement of the Head of School (HOS), the HOS job description, and the evaluation rubric included in the response. Ms. Neville asked that we find the documentation that shows the Board voted on the policies and procedures regarding fiscal oversight. Ms. Nugent also asked for clarification on the non-compliance with general laws. Dr. Cirillo explained that they were referring to the requirement that students attend summer school and that this needs to be optional. Mr. Neville and Dr. Dittmar commented on the report's view on the curriculum. Dr. Cirillo explained that they are also addressing that in the response and that the focus on the current transitional period was to complete the curriculum and put special focus on math and science. Not sure why the rating the same as in the prior review which occurred before all the work was done. Mr. Neville mentioned that based on our experience 2 years ago, and the experience of other charter schools, we need to reach out to key stakeholders and talk to them about the report and our plans for the future in order to ensure that we have widespread support for our renewal. There was discussion of which the key stakeholders are/should be and next steps to reach out to them. Dr. Cirillo commented that he is not sure if our response to the report will have an impact on the final report to change some of the ratings.

IV. Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(5) Discussions or Considerations Related to Lease Provisions.

The Board did not move into executive session.

V. Discussion/Vote Regarding Lease Provisions

Ms. Nugent commented that we did our due diligence in terms of drafting a lease provision and submitted that in time. Dr. Cirillo informed the board that Mr. DeBlois verbally informed him that he has accepted the Bradley Hospital lease proposal. There was discussion about the timing of the lease proposal



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acceptance and the deadlines set for our response. Ms. Lusi and Mr. Luger, from PPSD, are willing to assist in this process and will discuss further during an upcoming meeting with Dr. Cirillo.

Ms. Nugent laid out the options regarding the next steps and there was discussion about the pros and cons of those options and the importance of the timing and coordination of the messaging regarding the lease. The Board agreed that they need to continue to explore multiple options until we know, formally, the outcome of the lease agreement.

VI. Discussion/Vote Regarding School-Building Relocation

There was discussion about the need to look for alternative locations to ensure that we have options in case that our lease is not accepted. Dr. Cirillo has made some inquiries to seven or eight locations that are possibilities. Will continue working through those to identify a set of viable locations.

VII. Discussion /Vote Regarding FY15 Budget/FY 14 Financials Update

Dr. Cirillo and Mr. Neville met with Dan Pasek and some of his team members to discuss the options regarding the future of the school including the charter renewal application. The group agreed that the best course of action is to re-brand the school as a CTE school and secure the services of a consulting organization that specializes in helping charter schools move their agenda forward. Should the Board decide that this is the course of action there is a cost of \$15K associated with securing the group to assist in the development of the charter renewal/re-branding application and provide some follow up to that proposal. This would also provide us with a curriculum development resource that we currently lack. Mr. Pasek will also take a look at the RIDE review response and provide feedback. In order to secure their services the Board will need to amend the budget to include this line item. There was discussion about the need to understand if there is a will within the school community to move in this direction.

Mr. Dittmar walked the group through the current balance sheet and the cash on hand as of March 31st. He then reviewed the budget/actual report and the forecast that assumes making a number of changes that have been proposed. There was discussion about the importance of the Claims Pro study being done properly in order to ensure we receive the Medicare monies associated with the students that we are working with. Dr. Cirillo has arranged for training for the faculty in order to improve the accuracy of our reporting. There was discussion about the possibility of a new building costing less and the possible savings that could bring. Mr. Dittmar indicated that it is possible to add the consulting expenditure given the changes in costs/expenditures that we are expecting. Mr. Dittmar will join the teacher's meeting to explain the financial impact of the Claims Pro study.

Mr. Neville moved to approve an amendment to the budget to increase professional services by \$15K. Ms. Fisher seconded the motion.

There was discussion about a letter from the Auditor General about the lateness of ACE's audited financials. The AG sent the letter to RIDE as well. This has been an issue with the auditors for a number of years and is not acceptable. At another point the Board will consider action on this matter.

VIII. Adjourn

Ms. Altman moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Fisher seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 by unanimous vote.